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## THE EVENING BULLETIN.

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## LARGE AND ENTHUSIASTIC

### FIRST MONTHLY MEETING OF THE ANNEXATION CLUB.

Rolling Speeches from Platform and  
Floor—Stem Talk for Opposing  
Planters.

Two or three hundred men gathered in the Drill Shed last night in answer to the call of the Annexation Club executive for the first of a series of monthly general meetings.

On the platform were L. A. Thurston, president; J. L. McLean, secretary; H. E. Cooper, Minister of Foreign Affairs; John A. McCandless, Senator, and A. G. M. Robertson, Representative. Among those present in the body of the hall were:

President Dole, W. O. Smith, Attorney-General; Dr. C. B. Wood, M. Louison, J. B. Atherton, J. Mort Oat, Hon. H. M. Whitney, T. J. King, B. F. Dillingham, E. W. Peterson, Judge Perry, C. A. Brown, H. Laws, J. W. Girvin, Captain Macauley, Hon. D. L. Naone, W. C. Achi, W. R. Castle, P. C. Jones, W. R. Sims, Captain Macdonnell, C. B. Ripley, A. V. Gear, Henry Davis, Ed. Towse, Justice Frear, Colonel De La Vergne, L. C. Ables, John Farnsworth, Julius Asch, Jonathan Shaw, J. Kraft, G. W. R. King, Colonel J. H. Soper, J. A. Kennedy, Fred Lyman, Colonel R. H. McLean, F. B. Oat, J. Hyde Pratt of New York and a large number of the mechanics of Honolulu.

President Thurston called the meeting to order and announced the recent decision to hold monthly meetings. This was the first of the series, and it was not held for the purpose of a mere show. As the proceedings of the previous meeting of the club had been published in the papers, the secretary would not read the minutes of the meeting. He called on Col. J. H. Fisher to read a statement of the operations of the executive in the meantime. After the reading the report was accepted nem. con.

The president then reported the recommendation of the executive to change the constitution to admit of having an executive officer. Col. Fisher having read the amendment, it was moved and seconded that it be adopted.

J. B. McStocker while approving of having an officer to perform executive work, did not see the necessity of changing the constitution. If none of the officers now provided for can attend to the work, one of them might resign and make room for someone who could attend to the work.

G. A. Davis held that the executive committee had well considered the proposal, and that the new officer was necessary.

The amendment was adopted without a contrary voice. Ed. Towse asked if Mr. Brown was already permanently installed in office.

The president answered that this was an omission on his part, and called for the election of an executive officer.

C. A. Brown was nominated and unanimously elected.

President Thurston made introductory remarks, saying annexation was not always so popular as today. Six months before the 17th of January, 1893, when the struggle was going on between the Legislature and Liliuokalani, a gentleman said, "This is tending to annexation." That gentleman afterward stood up in front of the Government building and read the proclamation that declared the policy of the Provisional Government to be annexation. Since that day that gentleman had stood with the Government for annexation, and he need say no more to introduce Hon. H. E. Cooper, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to the meeting. (Applause.)

Mr. Cooper delivered the following address: I do not propose to discuss this evening the whys and wherefores

or reasons for annexation or to define the attitude of the Government further than to state that its policy has been and still is annexation to the United States of America.

While in the United States recently I had the opportunity of hearing much that is encouraging to those who believe in annexation. First of all, it is not likely that the question will become a party issue; the proposition will be advocated by Republicans and Democrats alike, while opponents will be found in the ranks of both parties. The question is likely to be heard upon its merits, and largely decided upon points of policy. For this reason, although during the last election the Republicans have lost a part of their majority in the House, and the Senate appears to be largely in favor of the position taken by the advocates of silver, we need have no fear that this will interfere with the discussion and decision of the Hawaiian question.

While the Republican party at its last national convention committed itself to the policy that the United States should maintain control of the Hawaiian Islands, annexation was not made such a question as will compel opposing parties to consider it as a party measure. It was on these same lines that the Senate resolution of 1893 was passed; and from the position taken then there seems to be no desire to recede.

The division of opinion comes upon the question of annexation or the maintenance of the present status. The lines seem to be more sharply drawn upon this question than ever before. Our friends are more strongly our friends than ever, and I believe we have many more of them, while the opposition may become more pronounced against us. For this reason, while making no prophecy as to the outcome, I feel assured that if annexation is accomplished it will be upon such terms and conditions as will be the most favorable to Hawaii. It is not likely that there will be any splitting of hairs with us in the final decision of the question. Our friends feel that we should be left as independent as possible, consistent with the fact of annexation. Those who are in favor of annexation look upon it as a matter where the benefits should be reciprocal.

The fact that we have shown ourselves capable of self-government has strengthened our position to a large extent. Although the danger has been that some might consider it best to leave well enough alone, yet the more general view is that the question should not be left any longer in abeyance, and has finally settled in favor of annexation.

While many of the opponents of annexation in the United States have based their opposition upon the policy of the Government heretofore, that no territory should be acquired which is not a part of the American continent, many now say that they consider that an exception to this rule should be made in the case of Hawaii. The reason for this is that Hawaii has become too important a factor in controlling the commerce of the Pacific to be left where it might go under the control of another power.

The occupation of Pearl Harbor is considered by those who favor a progressive foreign policy to be essential. This is one of the encouraging features of the situation, that we have become necessary to the United States and do not have to depend entirely upon our own needs to further the cause. While heretofore annexation may have been largely a question of sentiment, it has now practically come down to a question of business dealing. This being the case, it is not likely that if annexation is accomplished there will be any disposition on the part of the United States to impose such conditions as will ultimately result in detriment to Hawaii; that is to say, we are placed more upon an equal footing so far as treating upon the question is concerned than we were in 1893.

It is most likely that a special session of Congress will be called soon after the inauguration of the new President, and while the main feature of that session will probably be the discussion of the tariff, it is likely that the Hawaiian question will receive attention at the same time. Much, of course, will depend upon the attitude of the incoming administration, and while we may not expect to be referred to in either the President's inaugural or his first message to Congress, there seems every reason to believe that the question will be brought forward early in the session.

There are various methods of bringing up the question for discussion. One is by the re introduction of the treaty of 1893, which has never been finally disposed of, although withdrawn by President Cleveland soon after his inauguration. Another method is by joint resolution of both House and Senate consenting to annexation, and another is by the concurrent resolution of the House consenting to and recommending annexation, leaving the details to be settled by a treaty confirmed by the Senate.

Certainly never before and perhaps never again will the opportunity occur for the more favorable discussion and action upon this question.

Mr. Robertson said annexation is no new subject with us. I am an annexationist because I think it is the best thing for this country, that is, for the people of this country. By annexation we get stability, which means progress and prosperity, while instability means retrogression. It is true that without annexation in the past the country has made progress, but it is on account of artificial stimulus—the reciprocity treaty of 1875. It is very hard to argue in favor of annexation because there is nothing to argue against. Those who oppose annexation do nothing but whine, call names and growl. There are three classes who oppose annexation. 1. Those who oppose it for financial or commercial reasons. 2. Those who oppose it for sentimental reasons. 3. Those who oppose it for no reason at all. (Laughter.) It is not worth while wasting time over the third class. As to the first class, those who claim that annexation is against their business interests do not seem to consider where we are at, or that all our prosperity depends upon the continuation of the reciprocity treaty. Then, as regards the sentimental reason. Those who use it want independence under a monarchical government. But what kind of independence did these islands have since the beginning of their government? It was independence that was wholly imbecile and utterly helpless, as history has shown it to have been wherever it presented itself. What sort of independence had the country when a French man-of-war came here in 1839 and dictated a treaty? Then in 1843 a British man-of-war came and hoisted the British flag, and although Britain and France agreed, at the restoration of the Hawaiian flag, to respect the independence of Hawaii, another French man-of-war came in 1846 with an admiral to demand a new treaty and indemnity for fines paid by vessels that had violated harbor regulations. He gave the Government about thirty-six hours to sign that treaty, but the Government relying on its supposed independence refused to do so. Then a squad of marines was landed, the fort dismantled and possession taken of the town until the Government should submit to the terms. Where was the independence of the country in 1874 when a sovereign was to be elected, and the natives did not want Kalkakua yet had to accept him at the point of foreign bayonets? Again in 1887 an amendment was made to the reciprocity treaty by which Hawaii was bound to cede no territory to any other country without the consent of the United States. So that lately when a British company wanted to land a telegraph cable on Necker Island, permission was asked of the United States by Hawaii and President Cleveland recommended it be granted, but the Senate of the United States would not consent. Now we find, too, that those who would have the monarchy restored with independence say that the Queen was not dethroned by the people but by the United States ship Boston. According to their own claims, then, the independence of Hawaii was not such as to prevent a little American ship like the Boston from dethroning the Queen and setting up the Republic. (Applause.) We are told that if we have annexation a lot of carpet-baggers and adventurers will swarm down on the islands. What is meant by carpet-baggers is not made clear. Is it people who want to come here to better their condition? The parents of those of us who were born here, then, were carpet-baggers and there are some here tonight who are carpet-baggers and adventurers. (Applause and laughter.) I will close reminding you that this is a time for us to work, to put our shoulders to the wheel, to help the cause along.

The president remarked that Mr. Cooper had stated that the terms to be offered Hawaii would be favorable. As the terms of a treaty of annexation would be submitted to the Hawaiian Senate for ratification, he would introduce a member of that body to show how he felt on the question—Senator McCandless.

Mr. McCandless spoke in substance as follows: This club was started four years ago to help the cause of annexation along. I believe its members intend to keep working for the cause until it is accomplished. Some people say that the United States do not want us. Away back in 1843 when Great Britain and France wanted the United States to join in a treaty binding these three nations that none of them should ever seize these islands, the United States refused to join the other two nations as if she intended at some future time to annex these islands herself. When the reciprocity treaty was negotiated in 1875 it is understood that the reason actuating the United States was to maintain her influence over the islands. We have the assurance of men acquainted with those who put the declaration in the Republican platform at St. Louis, that the United States ought to control the Hawaiian Islands, that it meant that the coming administration should bring about annexation. We do not want any protectorate, we want the full marriage ceremony. Some people tell us we would be sorry for it if we got annexation. I never heard of anybody in Texas, or Louisiana, or Alaska, being sorry for belonging to the United States. There were people who questioned if the reciprocity treaty would be a benefit. I asked a gentleman in 1883 if reciprocity treaty had benefited the country and he told me that for twenty-four years before reciprocity he had worked hard and accumulated not more than \$5000, but since the reciprocity treaty had gone into effect money had come to him so fast that he did not know where it came from. The islands were at that time producing about 65,000 tons of sugar. Now this island will soon yield that quantity itself, and Hawaii has long ago passed that mark. The speaker spoke of the uncertainty hanging over the reciprocity treaty from United States tariff legislation. Sugar was not the only product of the islands, however, on account of which it was important to secure a free market in the United States. Coffee and pineapples are being extensively cultivated here, and other industries are growing. Even guava jelly on which a good deal of ridicule had been spent might be more important than imagined. Within fifty miles of Honolulu today there are enough guavas growing to keep a mill going nearly all the year round. You must remember that there is a population of 70,000,000 over there who like those things. Some sugar planters are said to oppose annexation because they are afraid of losing contract labor. If the planters

take that ground of opposition I predict that the next Legislature will repeal the contract labor system. (Long and long continued applause.) Annexation promises all the benefits of American protective legislation, stable government and security. I cannot see how any business man, or sugar man, can oppose annexation. I think a mistake has been made in the past that Hawaiians have not been taught self respect. They have been taught to be like children and I think that some are doing the same here today. They give a Hawaiian a quarter or a half dollar to get something to eat. With annexation the Hawaiian has his one last chance among the new blood that will come in here. They must mix with other people and compete with them on their own ground. The speaker told the story of the several rebuffs Texas got before admitted into the Union and concluded: Let us ask for everything in sight and take everything we can get so as we can get annexation.

President Thurston announced that the appointed list of speakers had been heard and now remarks were acceptable from anyone present. There was a member of the club at the previous meeting who promised to throw his avoirdupois into the scales. P. C. Jones was thus introduced, but before he had time to get up he was anticipated.

Captain Macdonnell, the well-known G. A. R. peripatetic veteran, arose and said he was here first in 1852. He sold the Hawaiian History in Chicago last year. I am not ashamed of it, said he, for Napoleon was a book agent, so was Daniel Webster, so was Blaine, so was General Grant. There are many kickers here same as in Arizona, but the majority is with us. Oregon had kickers against coming into the Union, but the majority put it there. There were kickers against the Mexican war, who said somebody would be killed, but a statesman was Secretary of State—Bancroft—and Texas was gained. America is a great country, but its fields are sprinkled with blood. We did not care for the enemy before us. It was the snake behind us giving us defeats when it was victories. Now I find the majority for annexation wherever I go. The planters can get along without their contract labor. How is it in Louisiana? They have no slaves there. How did they manage it? There must be something rotten in Denmark.

Mr. Jones was one of those who had been described as an annexationist first, last and all the time. And, he added, at any price. He believed there was no use in their haggling for any terms. The United States would do what was right, fair and honorable. He had found a copy of the annexation treaty Mr. Thurston had been trying to carry through at Washington. President Harrison said regarding this treaty, in his message to the Senate, that it did not attempt to treat matters in detail, as the Hawaiian commissioners left the terms to the future and to the benevolent justice of the United States. Results, the message said, would be just not only to the natives but to others of civilized races domiciled in the islands. Upon reading the passage the speaker said those were the words of Benjamin Harrison and he believed William McKinley would endorse every word. Old residents would remember Captain Crosby of the brig Europa. With other skippers tired of the sea he formed a company to go into the shoe business in Massachusetts, although they did not know any more about it than a shoe man did about whaling. The company found they were expected to give a credit of nine months. One of their customers having no money wanted to square their account with butter but they would not hear of it. Tired of waiting for his money one of them went to his place of business and found on the door the notice, "Gone to Cincinnati to buy hogs." Then they were sorry

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